

Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA E-Newsletter

Spring March-April 2012

Hello everyone!

We are now in the third month of 2012, and we have some great events coming up throughout the council for Venturing. Below is information on the Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA Update.

Recent Events:

- University of Scouting
- Area 3 Venturing Conference
- Winterfest

Events Coming Up:

- Mobile Lock-in
- Powder Horn in Greater St. Louis Area Council
- Recognition Awards and Advancement
- Central Region Sea Scout Rendezvous
- NYLT
- NAYLE
- Swift Base – Three Weeks of FUN!
- Fall Fun Rally!
- Jamboree 2013 at the Summit

Crew Shout-outs:

- Catholic Religious Awards – Crew 4216
- St. Greg Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch – Crew 4216

District Shout-outs:

- New Horizons – Olympic Event

Top News

National Venturing President 2012-2013

Please welcome Dustin M. Readenour as the 2012 - 2013 National Venturing President. Dustin is from the Greater St. Louis Area Council and lives in Ballwin, MO. His term of office will begin on June 1, 2012. Currently a senior at Marquette High School in Chesterfield, MO, he plans to attend Lindenwood University in Saint Charles, MO, in Fall 2012 for a degree in Business Administration or Human Resources Management.

Dustin has been involved in Venturing for four years. During this time, he has served as Vice President of Administration for Crew 2783, New Horizons District Venturing President, Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA Vice President of Program, Central Region Area 3 Venturing President, and is completing his term as the Central Region Venturing President.



Dustin has earned his Outdoor Bronze Award, Venturing Gold Award, Venturing Silver Award, and Ranger Award. He began his Scouting career in Cub Scouts earning his Arrow of Light. Moving on to Boy Scouts, Dustin also attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Venturing then opened his eyes to a whole new world of high adventure and leadership! He has come a long way since the beginning.

As National Venturing President, Dustin is looking to create resources for Venturing Officers' Associations or VOAs to be utilized by local councils. Dustin has much enthusiasm, experience, and motivation to do a very successful job.

Without a doubt, Dustin will do an exceptional job leading the Venturing program over the next year.

Recent Events

University of Scouting

This year's University of Scouting was a success! We had a wide range of new classes that participants wanted to get involved in. Participants liked sessions like "Putting the WOW into Your Program", "Facebook", and "How to Grow Your Crew". Youth and Adults were presenting together for a majority of the sessions and some sessions had the Youth be the main presenters. During the day, the Council Venturing Officers put together an Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews and had over 25 participants from throughout the council participate. The participants were able to meet and greet other scouters from across the council and were able to get ideas of how to grow their units and districts. The University of Scouting Venturing Dean and Presenters would like to thank Fran Johnson for her continued support of the Venturing College and wishes her the best as she goes onto new adventures. University of Scouting Venturing College for 2013 information will come out in the next E-Newsletter.

Central Region Area 3 Venturing Conference

The Third Annual Central Region Area 3 Venturing Conference took place on January 13-14th, 2012 in Normal, Illinois. This year's conference started off on a cool Friday evening with a little bit of snow. With both an Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews Course (ILSC) and Venturing Leader Specific Training (VLST) being offered the conference started out earlier than the first two Venturing Conferences. The ILSC had 7 youth participants who are now very eager to put on the course back in their own councils. The VLST had 3 adults become trained. Saturday started out early and was filled with many different courses available. A total of 71 participants and staff were present throughout the day from 6 different states. A Kodiak Challenge Course Directors Course (CDC) along with 15 other



courses were available throughout the day.

During the closing, the National Venturing President, Dan Carriveau, presented the first Area Venturing Leadership Awards in the nation to seven recipients including Dustin Readenour, the Central Region Venturing President and myself. If you would like to enjoy the Conference in a quick 2 minute format, please enjoy the time lapse that was taken:

<http://youtu.be/L5oWSDH3yaA>

Article by Christina Vogt



Area 3 Venturing Leadership Award Recipients

At the Central Region Area 3 Venturing Conference, during the closing, we held a National Court of Honor to present the first Area Venturing Leadership Awards (VLA) in the nation. During the Court of Honor, Dan Carriveau, current National Venturing President, and Amanda Vogt, 2008-2009 National Venturing President, presented the first six awardees with the Area VLA. There were four that were from the Greater St. Louis Area Council. The recipients were Dustin Readenour, current Central Region Venturing President and 2010-2011 Area 3 Venturing President; Christina Vogt, current Area 3 Venturing President; Peter Schmidt, current Central Region Boatswain and 2010-2011 Area 3 Boatswain; Samantha Yahl, 2010-2011 Area 3 Vice President of Communications; Zabrina Johnson, current Central Region Vice President of Program



and 2010-2011 Area 3 Vice President of Program; and Sarah Mittrucker, current Central Region Vice President of Administration and 2010-2011 Area 3 Vice President of Administration. Let's give them all a round of applause for their good work. Next year, these youth will be selecting the next Area 3 VLA recipients. *Article by Christina Vogt*

Winterfest

A contingent from the Greater St. Louis Area Council headed down to Winterfest from February 3-5, 2012. Winterfest is a Venturing and Exploring conference down in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, held in February each year. The GSLAC contingent of 7 youth and 5 adults spent the weekend swinging from the ceiling of the convention center building, bowling, shooting air rifles, and handing out more beads promoting Swift and Fall Fun Rally than you can imagine. On Friday night, the group created a tabletop display promoting Fall Fun Rally, which was presented the following morning. It placed 3rd in the multimedia table top display contest. The weekend was brought to a close as they drove to the top of the Appalachian Mountains and hiked the entire [width of] the trail.



Upcoming Events

Venturing After Dark/Mobile Lock-in Rescheduled -- March 24

The St. Louis After Dark Lock-in information is now available. Go to the updated webpage for the flier/registration information. The Lock-in will begin at the Edward Jones YMCA in Maryland Heights.

Registration is due on March 16th! No Late Registrations. This event is limited to the first 200 participants. So get your registration information turned in as soon as possible.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/events/mobilelockin>



Powder Horn in the Greater St. Louis Area Council – April 20-22 and May 4-6

Are you interested in attending Powder Horn? Register NOW! Slots are still available for the Greater St. Louis Area Council Powder Horn course that is coming up. However, there is no more Youth Slots and Adult slots are slowly getting filled. So if you are interested, and just haven't turned in your application yet, please get your application in as soon as possible to reserve your slot. Get your applications turned in because space is limited.

The Powder Horn program is six days of nonstop fun, high adventure activities that will help your program become a "WOW" program for your Youth.

For more information on St. Louis Powder Horn, please visit our website at www.powderhornstl.org email us at powderhornstlouis@gmail.com.



Recognition Awards and Advancement

Venturing Leadership Award

Do you know an outstanding Venturing Youth? How about nominating them for the Council Venturing Leadership Award!! The Greater St. Louis Area Council recognizes some of our many youth in the Council with the Venturing Leadership Award. We present this award to a select number of highly deserving people each year. To receive the Venturing Leadership Award, the nominee must have been involved in Venturing for more than one year and have provided exceptional leadership at the Crew, District, or Council Level. The deadline to turn in a nomination is April 1, 2012.

So while we still have some time, start to think about some deserving individuals. Nomination Forms can be found at: http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/Venturing_leadership_award_0.pdf.



Venturing Servant Leader Award

With the recent discontinuing of the Adult Venturing Leadership Award, the VOA wants to continue to recognize the outstanding adults in the council. Therefore we have created a Council level award to present to adults. Past recipients of the Council Venturing Leadership Award (either as a youth or adult), are ineligible to receive this new award. All the qualifications, and the nomination process, are the same as the Venturing Leadership Award. Visit the Council Venturing Website for the nomination form for this new award called the Venturing Servant Leader Award. Deadline for nominations to be received by the Council Scout Office is April 1st, 2012.

District Award

During the October training weekend for all council officers and district officers, goals are created for the upcoming year. The GSLAC Council Officers have created a new award to help entice the districts to strive to complete the goals. The award consists of 13 different goals of which 11 must be completed. The district will then turn in the check list at the August roundtable and during the council elections on Friday evening of the Fall Fun Rally, the districts will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and a successful year.

Venturing Advancement

Are your Venturing Youth working on Advancement such as the Venturing Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Trust, Quest, or any of the Sea Scout Awards? If they are working on it, try to promote them to complete the Awards at the April, so the Award can be presented at the Council Venturing Celebration Dinner.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/awards>

Venturing Celebration Dinner

Mark your calendar for June 9th for the annual Venturing Celebration Dinner. Come and enjoy an evening filled with reflection from the past year in the council. Enjoy a catered dinner and awards dinner with a review of the year. Watch for more details in the near future.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/events/recognitiondinner>

Central Region Sea Scout Rendezvous

Don't miss the 2nd Annual Task Force Area 3 Rendezvous. This year it is going to be a Central Region Centennial of Sea Scouting event. As those of you who were there this past May already know it is a "Fall Fun Rally on Water". Open to both Venturers and Sea Scouts, we will have the sailboats, canoes, kayaks and lots of events on shore too. Rain or shine, night and day, we have events planned. Hope to see you there. It will be the weekend of May 18th - 20th. It is on the banks of Lake Springfield at Abraham Lincoln Councils Sailing Center in



Springfield, IL. You can come for a day or camp with us for the whole weekend. Last year, this was the largest Sea Scout themed event in our entire Central Region and 2012 is looking even better. The two youth heading up this effort are your TFA3 Boatswain Lucas Shapland (lukemark774@hotmail.com), and your Central Region Boatswain Peter Schmidt (smitykid4@yahoo.com). If you would like to help run an event, help design the logo, or just want to ask questions please shoot them an e-mail. Plus for more info, we have a few of places to go on the web. Hope to see you and your unit there. Help us wrap up our first 100 years and kick start us into our second century More Information at <http://www.facebook.com/CentralRegionRendezvous> or <http://www.facebook.com/area3rendezvous> (check out the pics from 2011!) <http://centalregionrendezvous.webs.com/>

NYLT for Venturers!

Now is the time to inform your eligible Venturers about the NYLT courses that are available to them this summer at S-F Scout Ranch! There will be two courses at the Ranch (July 1-7, 2012 - based at the tree houses and July 22-28, 2012 is a co-ed Pack & Paddle NYLT course). If a Venturer meets the eligibility requirements, is a good camper, and works well with youth and adults, he/she is ready to learn and practice advanced contemporary leadership skills at NYLT! For more information and registration form, go to:

<http://venturing.gslac.org/training/nylt> for more information about each week and registration information.

Central Region NAYLE

Just released at the beginning of January 2012 - the Greater St. Louis Area Council is hosting a NAYLE course this summer! The dates are July 29 - August 3. More information on sign-ups will be coming soon from the Council. Stay tune for more information.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/training/nayle>

Swift Base – Three Weeks of FUN!

Swift Base first opened the summer of 1966 at S bar F Scout Ranch. From the beginning, it was designed to be a totally different experience for high-school and college-age members. It is one of only two bases of its type in our country. And the Greater St. Louis Area Council is lucky to have it here!

S bar F Scout Ranch is 5,200 acres of woods, trails, streams, Nims Lake and fun. Our 270-acre Nims Lake serves as the focal point for water skiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, swimming, water tubing, sun bathing, kayaking and water sliding. Our herd of horses will allow you to saddle-up and explore the wilderness trails. If heights and challenges are your thing, we offer rock climbing, rappelling and a high and low ropes course. Mountain bikes are available every day for rides that see no pavement. You may want to try your hand at firing a .22 rifle or bow and arrow. At Swift, you choose what you want to do.



All meals are served in Swift Lodge, dining hall style. Your crew will camp on a campsite with your crew and leader. Tents are set up for you on wooden frames. There are five campsites that are scattered in the woods, so that the crews have shade and some privacy. Swift Base is located at S bar F in Knob Lick, Missouri. Go to the Swift Page or the Summer Camp website for more information.

There are three weeks available this summer for Venturers. All of them are specialty weeks meaning that they will focus more on certain themes for the week, but classic activities will still be available during each week.

Week 1: June 17-23, 2012 Sea Scout and Aquatics week

Week 2: June 18-June 30, 2012 Great Outdoors

Week 3: July 8-14, 2012 Mountain Man Adventure (**SOLD OUT!**)

Do you want to attend Swift, but your crew isn't? There is a way that you can. During the first two weeks of Swift (June 17-23 and June 18-30), you can attend by signing up and there will be units that will be accepting other youth to attend camp with them those weeks. More information:

http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/Swift_Base_Provisional_Week_12.pdf

For more information visit: <http://venturing.gslac.org/camping/swiftbase>

Swift Base Flier: http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/Swift2012_v2.pdf

Fall Fun Rally

The Fall Fun Rally Advisor (Tim Yahl) and Fall Fun Rally Chair (Adam Kaul) have been hard at work getting the ground work together for the next Fall Fun Rally. In January the District Officers will start to get the ball rolling on their activities at the Fall Fun Rally. Remember, SAVE the DATE of September 28-30, 2012. More information will be coming soon on the Fall Fun Rally. www.fallfunrally.org

Jamboree 2013 at the Summit!

In 2010, Boy Scouts of America celebrated their hundredth anniversary. In a year and a half, National will be back with a bigger National Jamboree to celebrate the beginning of the next hundred years of Scouting. This time, for the first time ever, Venturers can come as participants!

Along with being participants, Venturers can serve on staff (if at least 16 years old by the start of the Jamboree). This Jamboree is going to be bigger and better. Why? Because this Jamboree will be held on the new Boy Scout owned property, The Summit Bechtel

Family National Scout Reserve and is going to be the fourth BSA high-adventure base. Are you ready to go big and get wild? This Jamboree is going to be focused on getting active and doing high adventure. That's what we do in Venturing. So why not join us in this once in a lifetime experience. The date for this awesome event is July 15 - 24, 2013 and spots are filling up fast so check with your local council for pricing as a participant.

For more information check the Jamboree website - <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx> -and remember the countdown is on.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/events/nationaljamboree>



Crew Shout-Outs

Scout Sunday in Cape Girardeau – Crew 4216

Scout Sunday is beginning of the Anniversary week of the birth of Scouting in the United States. At Old St. Vincent's Church in Cape Girardeau, MO, Venturing Crew 4216 attended their Scout Sunday mass with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in the celebration. Sarah Mittrucker, of Crew 4216, read the 2nd reading and Elizabeth Carleton read petitions. Cole Howell, who will be the first Eagle Scout in the Crew, presented the Crew Flag.

Monsignor Rolwing talked about earning the Eagle Scout Award as a youth and that our Bishop, Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. is also an Eagle Scout. He also spoke of how skills learned in scouting can prepare you for life.

The Catholic Scouting Awards will be presented in the Diocese of Springfield- Cape Girardeau on the east side of the diocese on May 3, 2012. There will be several Pope Pius XII awards presented.

Several members of the crew of Lutheran faith participated in services at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, MO.

After services all members of the crew met for lunch and had the Friends of Scouting Presentation by Dan Williams. We also worked on planning the crew's open house in March. Also some planning was done on the Shawnee District ILSC to be hosted by District President Sarah Mittrucker, District Vice President of Communications Lydia Cameron and crew member Cole Howell in April. They all recently attended the ILSC held in the North Star district and it inspired them to hold one in their own district as several new crews have been formed recently. They want to keep Venturing active in the Shawnee district.

Article by Sarah Mittrucker

St. George's Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, NM – Crew 4216

One of the best experiences I have had as a Venturer was on the St. George Trek. It really combined two of the most important things in my life. Being in the outdoors and growing in my faith. The St. George is a special Philmont trek for Catholic Scouts and Venturers every two years. About 70 youth from 34 dioceses and 21 states were chosen to attend. It starts in Albuquerque, NM at the Madonna Retreat center because in most cases you don't know anyone. There we get to know each other and break into 7 crews.

I was in an all-female crew, even the crew advisors and ranger. We were somewhat of a novelty along the trail being an all-female crew. We started in the most southern part of the ranch at backache. We got to do several of the program areas at the ranch such as rock climbing, sparpole climbing, burro racing and learning about Philmont history. All the crews gathered midway through the trek for a few days of reflection of our experience. Before we set off on our separate trails again, we held a beautiful sunrise Mass at Cimarroncito Reservoir celebrated by the founding director Bishop Robert Guglielmono.

It was a wonderful experience and I know some of "God's girls" will be friends for life. This fall when I attended the National Catholic Youth Conference I met up with several of the St. George trekkers, seminarians and one of my crew leaders. It was wonderful to talk about the great times we had at Philmont and feel that closeness again.

I will be travelling to Philmont again this summer to attend the National Advanced Leadership Experience (NAYLE) while my mom attends a class at the Philmont Training Center with the Trek Director Fr. Gerard Gentleman.

Article by Sarah Mittrucker



District Shout-Outs

New Horizons Olympic Event – April 27-29, 2012

A weekend full of fun competitions - everything else is a surprise! There will be an optional Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) course held on Friday night beginning at 5:00. Wait, you want to come, but your crew can't attend, sign up on your own and you will be placed with another crew!

<http://venturing.gslac.org/newhorizons/olympicevent>

Future Article Submission

Do you have a wonderful adventure your Crew has recently done that you would like to share with other Crews across our Council? Then please let us know about it and we will highlight your Crew in our VOA E-Newsletter. Just write up a short article and be sure to include some pictures. Submit the articles to the Vice President of Communications – Jacob Hanneken at s.silence1@yahoo.com and/or the Associate Advisor for Communications – Eric Mircsov at eaglescout939@hotmail.com.

Your Venturing Officers and Advisors for 2011-2012

Rachel Bisch

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing President

Christina Vogt

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Vice President of Administration

Adam Kaul

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Vice President of Program

Jacob Hanneken

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Vice President of Communications

Jeff Abernathy

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Advisor

Chris Ford

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Associate Advisor for Administration

Lisa Abernathy

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Associate Advisor for Program

Eric Mircsov

Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Associate Advisor of Communications

Greater St. Louis Area Council Website – www.stlbsa.org

Venturing Officers Association of the Greater St. Louis Area Council – www.venturing.gslac.org

Facebook Group for the VOA - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/gslacventuring/>

Contacting the Council Officers or District Officers - <http://venturing.gslac.org/contact>